

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
a device operable as a host device, the device including:
a bus;
a first port, the first port being connected directly to the bus;
a second port, the second port being connected directly to the bus;
a host module, the host module being connected directly to the bus;
and
a comparator, the comparator being coupled to the bus and being operable for detecting the presence of a host externally connected to the bus,
wherein the host module is responsive to the comparator for relinquishing host status in response to the detection by the comparator of the presence of the host externally connected to the bus, and
wherein the bus passes a signal directly from the first port to the second port responsive to the relinquishment of host status.
2. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device further includes a power supply for providing a supply voltage on a voltage supply line of the bus, the supplied voltage being less than a minimum allowed voltage for the voltage supply line of the bus.
3. (cancelled)
4. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the comparator is operable to detect a change in voltage on a voltage supply line of the bus, thereby detecting the presence of the host externally connected to the bus.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, in which the change is an increase.
6. (cancelled)
7. (presently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the device is arranged for causing at least one signal line of the bus ~~coupled to the host module~~ to be forced tri-state on detecting the presence of the host externally connected to the bus.
8. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the host module is arranged to send a reset command via the bus in response to detecting the presence of the host externally connected to the bus.
9. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the host module is arranged to detect the loss of the host externally connected to the bus, and for reassuming host status in response thereto.
10. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, in which the host module is arranged to detect a reduction in voltage on a voltage supply line of the bus, thereby detecting loss of the host externally connected to the bus.
11. (cancelled)
12. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the device is a battery pack.
13. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the device includes a digital video broadcast receiver.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is operable as a USB host, wherein the first and second ports are first and second USB ports respectively, wherein the bus is a USB bus, wherein the host module is a USB host module, and wherein the comparator is operable to detect the presence of a USB host externally connected to the USB bus.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) A system including a device as claimed in claim 1, and a host device connected to the first port.

18. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 17, including a non-host device connected to the second port.

19. (previously presented) A method of operating a device operable as a host, the method comprising:

detecting a change in voltage on a voltage supply line forming part of a bus; and

relinquishing host status in response thereto,

wherein the device includes the bus having connected directly thereto: a first port, a second port, and a host module, and

wherein the bus passes a signal directly from the first port to the second port responsive to the relinquishment of host status.

20. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the device is operable as a USB host, wherein the first and second ports are first and second USB ports respectively, where the bus is a USB bus, and wherein the host module is a USB host module, and wherein the method comprises detecting a

change in voltage on the voltage supply line forming part of the bus thereby to detect the presence of a USB host externally connected to the USB bus.

21. (presently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a device operable as a host device, the device including:

a bus;

a first port, the first port being connected directly to the bus;

a second port, the second port being connected directly to the bus;

a host module, the host module being connected directly to the bus;

and

means for detecting the presence of a host externally connected to

the bus, the means for detecting being coupled to the bus.

wherein the host module is responsive to the means for detecting the presence of the host for relinquishing host status in response to the detection of the presence of the host externally connected to the bus, and

wherein the bus passes a signal directly from the first port to the second port responsive to the relinquishment of host status.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bus includes a signal line, and wherein the signal line passes the signal directly from the first port to the second port responsive to the relinquishment of host status.